



673d Security Forces in Iraq, Page A-11

Volume 2, No. 10

# ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON

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Reindeer run with troops, Page B-1

March 11, 2011

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## Paratrooper earns commendation for combat valor



**Army Lt. Col. Shawn Daniel, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne) commander, pins the Army Commendation Medal with 'V' device for valor on Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Bobo's uniform, for actions in combat during the unit's most recent deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead/4-25th ABCT PAO)**

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead  
4-25th ABCT PAO

Members of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne) honored one of their own, March 3, during a ceremony at their battalion headquarters for actions on the battlefield during the unit's most recent deployment to Afghanistan.

Twenty-five-year-old Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Bobo, currently serving as the weapons squad leader for 3rd Platoon, A Company, 3-509th, a native of Russellville, Ala., was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with V Device for Valor by his battalion commander as he stood beside his wife, Kerri Bobo.

Guest VIPs included Army Col. Morris T. Goins, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Gardner, 4-25th ABCT.

Army Lt. Col. Shawn Daniel, 3-509th commander, pinned Bobo with the ARCOM with V device, noting that the award recognized the NCO's selfless actions of making sure his team was moved into

safety before himself.

"I personally feel that most awards represent the actions of the men under you that make you look good, but an award with valor is all about you and what you have done for those men," Daniel said.

While manning a tactical check point, in Afghanistan last August, Bobo held a position overwatching his fellow paratroopers when an enemy rocket-propelled-grenade and small-arms attack came to the south of his position.

"The enemy was solely focused on the TCP itself, they hadn't seen me or my men yet since we were up on the ridge," Bobo said. "I got maybe one or two rounds off with the 60-mm mortar tube I had with us before they shifted their fire and were targeting us too."

Exposed on the side of the ridge facing the enemy as they were, Bobo was in an excellent position to attack the enemy, but not to defend against their attacks.

Bobo then led his team back to the opposite side of the ridge so they could use its terrain as cover.

"I got my mortar team and moved them back first, my forward observer and I were the last to fall

back behind the ridge on the opposing military crest after the other guys had been moved," Bobo said.

The movement to cover wasn't without its own hazards, as enemy RPG rounds were getting closer to hitting their targets, Bobo said.

"Just before we fell back, there was this one RPG that hit so close to me and my (forward observer) that I thought we were dead," Bobo said, recalling the magnitude of the concussive blast. "When I looked up and saw that we were both still alive I knew that it was time for us to move."

Shortly after the entire team was behind cover and able to safely engage the enemy with well-aimed shots, Bobo's forward observer was able to fire 120-mm rounds on the enemy location, effectively ending the attack.

"When the 120s landed, they hit both the enemy location itself as well as the most likely path an enemy retreat would take," Bobo said. "We weren't being shot at anymore after that."

Bobo, and the rest of the 3-509th is currently conducting training for another deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

## Top Cover: Combat Alert Center Airmen, earn first 'mission ready' rating from NORAD

By David Bedard  
JBER PAO

On Thanksgiving Day, 2007, klaxon alarms in then Elmendorf Air Force Base's Combat Alert Center pierced the winter air, prompting pilots to hurriedly suit up and slide down the facility's fire pole, dashing down the ready line to their F-22 Raptor fighters.

Within minutes of the call, the F-22s were airborne en route to intercepting a Russian Air Force TU-95 Bear bomber just southeast of Nunivak Island, mere miles away from the Alaska mainland.

Since the 1950s, similar intercept missions have sortied hundreds of times at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson CAC, and the Cold War-era facility continues a 24-hour vigil to maintain U.S. air sovereignty in the 21st Century.

Last month, the CAC earned a "mission ready" rating when Air Force inspectors general visited the facility for a North American Aerospace Defense Command Alert Force Evaluation.

Air Force Master Sgt. James Inch, CAC superintendent, said the success of the organization during the inspection involved a wide range of personnel assigned to JBER representing dozens of disciplines.

"It's a whole 3rd Wing, 673d Air Base



**A 3rd Wing F-22 Raptor escorts a Russian Air Force Tu-95 Bear bomber near Nunivak Island, 2007. It was the first intercept of a Bear bomber for an F-22 which was alerted out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Combat Alert Center. (Courtesy photo)**

Wing and 611th (Air Support Group) evaluation," the Herndon, Penn., native said. "So all three (organizations) have to meld together to get the mission ready rating, which is the highest rating."

Inch said IG inspected the whole process

necessary to intercept a foreign aircraft. The inspectors evaluated training, safety and procedures established to maintain the facility which is on alert 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

During a no-notice drill, Inch said IG

examined the 611th Aircraft Intelligence Squadron's capability to identify military aircraft entering the U.S. air defense identification zone – a national defense boundary for air incursions – and to relay that information to Alaska NORAD Region and the CAC.

Airmen from the 673d Security Forces Squadron were evaluated for their ability to secure the area and control access to the CAC.

Crew chiefs from 90th and 525th aircraft maintenance units were tested for how quickly they could safely launch alert aircraft, as well as how soon they could turn the returning aircraft around for future missions.

Finally, F-22 pilots were evaluated for how quickly, safely and accurately they intercepted the notional incursion aircraft.

Inch said the CAC broke new ground during the NAFE, establishing best practices for the Air Force during the inspection.

Despite the CAC's accomplishments, Inch said he feels there is still room for improvement.

"This year was the first F-22 evaluation, so there were a lot of questions of 'Are we doing everything we're supposed to be doing? Is there something we could do better?'" he said. "There are still some areas that we can streamline."

See **Top Cover**, Page A-3

## Soldier killed in Eagle River shooting

U.S. Army Alaska  
Public Affairs Office

The Soldier who died Sunday from a gunshot wound, received early that morning at an Eagle River residence has been identified as Sgt. Michael M. McCloskey, 26, of Beverly, N.J.

McCloskey joined the Army in August 2002. He served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and Fort Bragg, N. C. before arriving in Alaska in March 2010, where he first served as a construction equipment operator and later as a horizontal construction engineer with the 84th Engineer Company, 6th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. McCloskey completed two tours of duty in Iraq. The second tour was completed in November 2009. He was a graduate of the Army Warrior Leader Course, Combat Lifesavers Course and Airborne Course.

His death is under investigation by the



**Sgt. Michael M. McCloskey (DA photo)**  
Anchorage Police department.



## Air Force assistance fund begins

**Bob Hill, Air Force Aid Society, speaks to Airmen at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Joint Military Mall, Wednesday, about the importance of donating to the Air Force Assistance Fund. (Photo by Luke Waack/JBER PAO)**

## Anti-terrorism awareness

Tip of the week: Home security

- Do not display your name or rank on the outside of your residence or mailbox.
- Have good lighting. Limit hiding places by trimming bushes and hedges.
- Use a 6- to 8-foot perimeter wall or fence.
- Use solid doors with a good dead bolt lock and one-way peepholes.
- Lock windows and skylights.
- Use alarm and intercom systems.
- Call JBER Security Forces at 552-3421, 384-0823 or for Emergency, dial 911.



(Courtesy photo)

### Inside this week's Arctic Warrior:

**Page A-2**, commentaries: Fire Safety, Meet the Manager at base exchange and out-thinking the enemy

**Page A-3**, Soldiers take on Expert Infantry Badge training, prior to testing

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# WORD ON THE STREET

By LUKE WAACK

Now that spring is on its way, what are you looking forward to most?



**“Getting outside; enjoying the longer days.”**

**Kristy Bloomfield,**  
Joint Base Elmendorf-  
Richardson-Exchange,  
vault supervisor



**“Looking forward to hiking Crow’s Pass.”**

**Airman**  
**Matthew Williams,**  
611th Air Operations Center,  
11th Air Force



**“Definitely looking forward to fishing and spending more time at the park with my kids.”**

**Sgt. Allen Reese,**  
C Company, 307th  
Integrated Theater  
Signal Battalion



**“Fishing and gardening. I like to get those little fish – the hooligan.”**

**Eldie Mendez,**  
military spouse



**“I look forward to seeing the wildlife, seeing the glaciers.”**

**Tech. Sgt.**  
**Nathaniel Oglesby,**  
3rd Aircraft Maintenance  
Group, 3rd Wing



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Jeremy Larlee - sports editor  
Dave Bedard, Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia and Airman 1st Class Jack Sanders

# Editorial & Opinion

## Is your family prepared for a fire?

Commentary by Mike Massong  
JBER Fire Safety inspector

Are your children safe?  
Have you given them the tools they need to survive?  
Are there ways to test their skills?

Like many of us parents, your response may be: I hope so, whenever I get a chance, and yes (when I make time to do it).

We all want the best for our children, and now I wish to steer your attention to fire safety for children, pertinent statistics, and a list of things we can do to prevent our children from becoming one of those statistics.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, children under 15 have a relatively lower risk than the general population of dying in a fire. This is welcome news to us all.

Unfortunately, another of their statistics points out that children younger than five account for 52 percent of those child deaths.

Fire injuries are also highest in this age group, followed by the 10 to 14 year olds (there is a decline from the five to nine year olds).

The year 2007 (USFA’s most recent statistics) resulted in 510 fire related deaths, and 1,900 fire related injuries in children under the age of 15.

The key to these statistics is that most, if not all of them, were preventable.

So, what preventative and educational steps can we take to dramatically increase the chance of our children growing up to provide us with grandchildren to spoil?

One of the first things you can do is ensure that you have working smoke alarms on each level of your house, in each bedroom, and the area leading to the bedrooms.

These smoke alarms should be checked monthly, replaced if more than ten years old, and the batteries changed out twice a year (coinciding with daylight savings).



**A fireman tells school children what they should do if their home were to catch on fire. (Courtesy photo)**

ing with daylight savings).

The smoke alarms test button should also be utilized for home fire drills to build that memory association for your children.

What? You say that you don’t do fire drills?

You should see the shocked faces of people in fire safety briefings when they witness the inaction of children during evacuation drills covered by news investigations.

I then ask, “who in the room is confident that their child will respond correctly if their fire alarm activates at night?”

My question is most often answered with deafening silence.

Remember, children need to practice responding to the alarm, crawling below the smoke, feeling the door for heat, and evacuating the house to your designated meeting point.

This should be practiced in accordance with your evacuation plan at different times of the day, and even after they have fallen asleep.

It is a lesson that can last a lifetime.

Some other life saving tips include: educating your children to never touch matches, lighters, and other ignition sources (which should be kept out of reach anyway).

If ignition sources are found, they should be reported to the nearest responsible adult.

Remind them to stop, drop, and roll if their clothes are on fire, and that fire fighters are there to help (even if they do sound like Darth Vader).

If you’re looking to fire safe your house, you now have the option of replacing mattresses older than 2007 (and even pajamas) with new ones that meet federal flammability standards.

It seems like there is so much to think about in our crazy lives, that we don’t always take the time to implement precautions or educate our children in some of the basics.

Yet, it is these basics that can determine whether a fire emergency arises, and the survival potential of your children if it does.

The physical and mental capabilities of the younger children account for why they make up over half of these fire mortality rates, but this too can be overcome with a family plan ... and the willingness to practice it.

Hopefully this fire safety reminder will prevent one of life’s missed opportunities.

For more information on child fire safety, please contact the JBER Fire Prevention Office at 552-2620.

## Exchange hosts ‘Meet the Managers’

### Joint Military Mall, Exchange customers have opportunity to share opinions, suggestions with management

The Exchange  
News release

Customer feedback plays an instrumental role in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Exchange’s ability to provide great service while improving the overall shopping experience.

Military patrons can play a part in this process by meeting JBER Exchange managers to discuss daily operations and areas of improvement.

“Meet the Manager” is a program in which store and general managers are available to discuss JBER Exchange operations with shoppers.

The program seeks to gather information on products, services and any problems experienced.

One of the program’s goals is to reduce the time and effort spent on processes while setting reasonable expectations.

In order to meet the continuing demand for the best products and services, JBER Exchange managers are eager to engage in one-on-one communication with those they serve.

“By placing a greater emphasis on customer feedback, we can work with shoppers to deliver a stronger benefit for all,” said the Exchange’s General Manager Ricky Byrd. “We want the best for the Soldiers and Airmen at JBER, and that starts with knowing their wants and need. The only way to do that is to proactively reach out and listen to community concerns.”

All feedback and information gathered during “Meet the Manager” discussions is sent back to Exchange headquarters in Dallas and evaluated for possible future programs and execution.

A booth or area for discussion is designated at the front of all Exchange locations periodically

in order for customers to easily recognize where to go to meet with various managers.

Prior to the event, signs are posted in-store to alert shoppers when their next session will occur. The next event is scheduled for March 17 from 10 a.m.–noon at the JBER Exchange located at 5800 Westover Ave.

Authorized patrons can contact the JBER Exchange for more information and additional details about the “Meet the Manager Program” by calling 753-4422.

*(Editor’s note: The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command and is directed by a Board of Directors which is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the Service Chiefs of Staff. The Exchange has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. To find out more about the Exchange history and mission or to view recent press releases visit [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).)*

## Think like the enemy, defeat the enemy

Commentary by  
Air Force 2nd Lt. Logan Clark  
Air Force News Service

It’s simple. If I think like the enemy, I will not only be able to defend against him, but ultimately defeat him. Very few people have ever requested I “think like a terrorist,” but that’s what makes anti-terrorism training so valuable.

It also makes a lot of sense, but so often we get caught up in our own problems and lives, we forget an attack can happen anytime, anywhere. As uniformed personnel or civilian employees, we all work for the military, which inherently puts us at risk for dissent, anti-U.S. sentiment or possibly even violence.

When I first signed up for Anti-Terrorism Level II training, I really didn’t know what I was getting myself into. I thought it was just going to be AT Level I, required by the Air Force for every service member and DOD civilian employee, just on steroids – more history, more techniques. I thought I was going to come out of this training correcting the characters in CIA

movies. I was, of course, mistaken. As cool as getting CIA training would be, AT Level II provides a different, more important service.

It teaches government employees how to look through the commander’s eyes to spot vulnerabilities, determine risk factors and advise the commander on the state of the installation as well as possible solutions to any problems.

For a lot of people in this training, they wonder, “I’m not in a career field that deals with any of this, why am I an anti-terrorism representative?”

Anti-terrorism is defensive – that is, we aren’t actively looking for terror threats. Instead, we must take it upon ourselves to find the vulnerabilities in our buildings and on base to ensure someone can’t take advantage of a weakness to wreak havoc. It’s a lot more difficult to hit a hard target than a soft one.

On top of the things you can do to protect yourself personally, like varying your routes to and from home, being nondescript while traveling and being aware

of potential threats in your area, we also have a duty to be aware of weaknesses that could put you or your fellow Airmen at risk.

So how can you help out your Anti-Terrorism officer?

Look around and see if there are things that could constitute a weakness. Do you have an evacuation plan? Do you lock up equipment and spaces that are either sensitive in nature or could be easily manipulated? Do you make sure the people around you are practicing good operations security measures?

Staying vigilant and keeping a watchful eye over our everyday operations and activities are how we can do our parts on an individual level for the anti-terrorism programs at our installations. So start thinking like the enemy, find the weak spots and make it so they can’t be exploited.

If you think like the enemy, you can predict the enemy. If you can predict the enemy, you can defend against him – and defense is our business, our expectation and our duty.





Senior Airman Robert King, 3rd EMS, A Non-destructive Inspection lab technician, 3rd Wing, conducts inspection on aircraft components. (Photo by Steven White/JBER PAO)

# Lab technicians keep operations going

By Airman 1st Class  
Jack Sanders  
JBER PAO

The 3rd Wing Non-destructive Inspection lab at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson keeps the mission on track with accurate safety inspections by providing needed reviews of metals and aircraft, the NDI lab is keeping pilots safe and in the air.

“The Non-destructive Inspection lab inspects aircraft and support equipment for defects such as cracks, or corrosion on composite materials, and we do that to keep bigger components from breaking,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Warren Peter, 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron,

Non-destructive Inspection lab superintendent. Non-destructive Inspection technicians test materials being inspected without the materials usefulness being affected.

“If we can catch a crack small enough we can have them fix it prior to the crack becoming big enough that the actual whole component breaks,” Peter said.

The NDI lab has to be more flexible than most, due to the variety of airframes stationed here.

To meet the needs of those different aircraft the NDI lab must use all of its resources.

The NDI lab uses different examination techniques to get an up close and personal look at whatever material they’re work-

ing on, while using technology, which doesn’t affect the material’s usefulness. Doing so can allow the NDI lab to provide a balance between quality control and cost-effectiveness.

“We’re kind of like the science geeks of the maintenance field,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Craigo, NCO in charge of the NDI lab.

A quick walk around the NDI lab reveals technicians bathed in the glow of diagnostic equipment and display screens.

One technique in particular, the Joint Oil Analysis Program, demonstrates how the NDI lab can be cost-effective and fun at the same time, said Craigo.

“JOP is where we burn the

oil sample that comes out of jet engines,” Craigo said. “If you remember from chemistry class, when you burn different metals they give off different colors of light. This unit analyzes the spectrum of lights that come off that metal and it tells us how many parts per million of that material is in the oil. It tells us what is failing inside of an engine and it can give us early detection or a means for early detection of failure in a jet engine.”

Some commonly used NDI methods include liquid penetrate, magnetic particle, radiographic inspection and eddy current, ultrasonic inspection, tomography and real-time radiography.

Even though the equipment

may be high-tech Craigo said, some of the techniques they use are actually centuries old.

Some techniques, like x-ray, Craigo said, were developed before modern machines and aircraft were thought of.

Some techniques may be old, but the NDI program itself wasn’t established until 1958.

The NDI program’s mission is to provide support to the structural maintenance program, which maintains air and space equipment in serviceable, safe and ready conditions, according to <https://acc.dau.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=3245.3>

The program provides support within the Air Force to many organizations including major commands, field laboratories, system program offices and Air Force depots as well as outside the service to the Department of Defense.

With such a colorful background it’s no wonder people like Craigo enjoy the job.

“A lot of our techniques are fun to work with. The aircraft and the varying different things we do on them are exciting,” he said.

The NDI lab technicians have their fun, but their job is serious business with the potential to save the Air Force millions of dollars, but at the same time keeping the aircrews safe.

“Every day we have (work) that needs to be done,” Peter said. “We have stuff that needs to be inspected whether it’s parts off an aircraft or whether we have to go onto an aircraft to inspect something a crew chief finds.”



Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Craigo, 3rd EMS, views an X-ray of an aircraft wing, searching for flaws. (Photo by Steven White/JBER PAO)

## Top Cover

From Page A-1

“We are always looking at those and now that we have set the bar, everybody’s goal should be to get above the bar, not just be average,” Inch continued. “Even though we have the mission ready this time, next time we want to make it ... one or two more best practices.”

Inch said the NAFE was another high point in the history of the facility and of the organizations who have operated it.

Tech. Sgt. William Brown, CAC assistant non-commissioned officer in charge, said the facility was built in 1954 for \$880,000. He said the facility has operated F-102 Delta Daggers, F-4 Phantoms, F-15 Eagles and today’s fifth generation stealth F-22s.

The CAC is home to a firehouse atmosphere with sleeping quarters, a weight room and recreational facilities for Airmen who work alert shifts. The F-22s rest in immaculate bays and are con-



An F-4E Phantom, flying out of then Elmendorf Air Force Base, intercepts a TU-16 Badger bomber, Oct. 13, 1980. Interceptors have flown out of JBER’s Combat Alert Center since the 1950s. (Courtesy photo)

stantly checked and rechecked by maintenance personnel to ensure their readiness.

“We’re here 24/7/365,” Brown said with a grin. “Always ready.”

A map in the CAC foyer is marked with multicolored stars showing intercept locations and types throughout the years. During facility tours, Brown demonstrates a librarian’s knowledge of every

intercept and briefs visitors with the tenor of a football coach recalling past plays.

The Clearwater, Fla., native said interceptors have historically operated through three follow-on bases: Galena Air Force Station, Shemya Air Force Base (now Eareckson Air Station) and King Salmon Air Station as divert airfields. Currently, only King Salm-

on operates as a follow-on base.

He placed an index finger on the map, indicating the CAC’s Russian counterpart installations: Ukrainka strategic air base, Tiksi Airport and the forward deployed location of Anadyr’s Ugolny Airport.

“Anadyr is very close to the Seward Peninsula,” Brown said. “So as they move into (Anadyr), our intention to fly and do our thing is heightened, because they’re so close.”

Brown said the Russians fly missions over the Polar ice cap, where they are picked up by Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet fighters, which will escort them along the border before handing them off to 3rd Wing F-22s.

In order to maintain the endurance to intercept and return to base, Brown said fighters are refueled by 168th Air Refueling Wing alert KC-135 Stratotankers from Eielson Air Force Base.

Requiring the coordinated efforts of three wing or equivalent organizations –Eielson Air Force Base, NORAD, and Canadian Defense Forces – to maintain air

sovereignty, Inch said for his part he is proud of the CAC’s accomplishments.

“A lot of things that we learned together to accomplish the mission at the end and then to watch the IG leave with us having a mission ready, that’s probably the best feeling anybody could have as a superintendent,” he said.

Tech. Sgt. William Kirkpatrick, CAC assistant NCOIC for facility management, said he prefers to paint the accomplishment with the brush of history.

“We’re doing the same mission we’ve been doing here since the 50s,” the Mooreland, Okla., native said. “We’ve maintained the air sovereignty alert mission ... with a plethora of airframes throughout the years.

It’s the same facility. It was built during the Cold War and we’ve got a fifth generation fighter sitting in it right now keeping the mission going.

“We’re part of history in two aspects: one, we’re working in history and two – being the first F-22 alert force – we’re making history, all in the same facility.”



# JBER-Richardson housing privatization progress

## Residents to see construction on new housing, new hours of operation to be posted as project develops

Commentary by Ivonne Bates  
Privatization project manager

There have been a number of activities since we last wrote about the housing privatization project on JBER-Richardson and the announcement of Aurora Military Housing III, LLC as the highest ranked offeror.

Since then, we have held four town hall meetings with JBER-Richardson residents and their families.

We have answered numerous questions that are now posted on the JBER website ([www.jber.af.mil](http://www.jber.af.mil)).

We are communicating with residents through Facebook, e-

mails, and by telephone.

All are a positive approach to ensure the word is getting out and all concerns are being addressed.

The first town hall meeting was conducted Jan. 31, at the JBER-Richardson theatre.

Our first meeting focused on residents of the Cottonwood neighborhood, nine buildings in Cottonwood East (349, 350, 361, 362, 363, and 364) and three (390, 391 and 393) in Cottonwood South.

Melody Marsh, the JBER-Richardson housing privatization lead, stated that, "In order to keep the construction timeline on track to start the building of new homes, we had to start early to vacate the buildings."

Traffic Management Office, Finance, and other on base support services were involved to help families with the move process, including support from the Anchorage School District and Aurora.

Rich Watson, JBER-R housing operations chief said, "There has been good support from the service members and their families in this initial relocation."

All relocated families will be

in their new homes by the end of March.

Each town hall addressed specific groups of neighborhoods in order to provide more focus regarding these respective areas for the attendees.

Because the relocations for the remaining residents were not immediate, the town halls focused more on what to expect concerning the transfer of the housing from the government to the private owner.

There was discussion about the tenant lease and handbook; however, these documents are still being reviewed.

Once these documents have been approved, information will be provided on how and when these items will be disseminated to JBER-Richardson residents to review and sign.

The expectation is to conduct lease signing sessions with dates and locations to be announced. The last town hall was held Feb. 16.

There are a number of moving parts in a project of this magnitude. The government and Aurora are working through the details of the

terms for the lease of property to Aurora Military Housing III.

The team is working through the details of the design and construction plans.

We are working with the Anchorage School District on a regular basis to ensure the best school options for each neighborhood are addressed.

The team is also actively reviewing the business plans that detail the operations and management for this project.

We have visited areas such as Birch Hill to conduct foundation measurements and held site visits inside other homes to verify condition assessments.

We will soon be seeing construction activity within the housing footprint, as soil testing is accomplished and we begin to clear locations for construction.

Once we have approved plans for construction activity we will post the hours of operation and locations on the JBER website as well as follow up articles in the *Arctic Warrior* newspaper.

The entire team and our leadership share the concerns of the

service members and their families about privatization and the construction activity.

We want to assure everyone that the Housing Management Office, the JBER-Richardson privatization project team, and Aurora Military Housing III, LLC are working together to ensure all concerns are understood and addressed.

For further information, see our frequently asked questions posted on the JBER website at [www.jber.af.mil](http://www.jber.af.mil).

Points of contact are Melody Marsh at 552-4295, JBER-R privatization lead, Ivonne Bates at 552-0626, JBER-R privatization contracted project manager, Rich Watson at 384-0133, JBER-R housing operations manager, and Genevieve Holubik at 552-2554, JBER-R design review lead.

You can also e-mail us at [jber.richardson.hp@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:jber.richardson.hp@elmendorf.af.mil).

This is about taking care of our JBER people, providing an improved quality of life for our service members who live on the installation; that continues to be the bottom line.

## Alaska Active Guard, reservists prepare for management board

By Capt. Amy B. Slinker  
AANG PAO

CAMP DENALI — In his position as Master Resilience Trainer and Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Ethridge tracks stress that Soldiers experience in the Alaska Army National Guard.

Recently, Ethridge identified that the most prevalent concern among senior Active Guard Reserve officers and noncommissioned officers centers on this spring's Active Service Management Board.

Ethridge says it's no secret that while he and his AGR peers compile their board packets, they are wondering what the future holds.

"There are a lot of mixed emotions about it (the ASMB)," Ethridge said. "I'm lucky in the aspect that I'm in my nineteenth year and already forecasted that I would be done at year 20. I've come to terms with that decision — others who may want to stay in past 20 years are scared because they haven't thought about what they're going to do."

An ASMB is a tool for life cycle management of qualified AGR Soldiers with 18 or more years of active service who fall into the zone of consideration.

If AGR programs exceed their controlled grade authorizations, they are required to hold a board each year until they are within their authorization.

"All of the states took a pretty significant cut on their AGR strength over the next three to five years," said Chief Warrant Officer Tammy Kostoff, AGR branch manager.

Kostoff is managing this year's ASMB. "In Alaska, we're on the horizon to lose up to 40 slots in 3 to 5 years," Kostoff said. "We're not going to be able to do that from normal attrition."

Kostoff explained that a board was not held last year because five AGR slots were reduced due to normal attrition.

Some states hold the board every year. Because the board has not been held in the Alaska Army Guard in several years, Kostoff said that some AGRs are nervous about the board and concerned they could lose their full time job.

"They're not really losing their job; they're still going to get a retirement. They just may not get to spend 30 years in the AGR program in Alaska," Kostoff said. "The only people being looked at have 18 years or more, so they are already guaranteed 20 years and will get a retirement. Anything past that is gravy."

By holding the ASMB, the Alaska Army National Guard is implementing a plan to meet the National Guard Bureau require-

ment to reduce those 40 positions over a span of several years, instead of reducing 40 people at once, according to Kostoff.

Lt. Col. John McShane, deputy chief of staff for personnel, G-1, explained that the board would position future leaders for the Alaska Army National Guard.

"This process may free up positions to open the way for junior Soldiers to move into in the future," McShane said. "If you are selected by the board, be proud of what you've done and allow others to continue your success and legacy."

Kostoff advises AGRs to approach the ASMB with a positive attitude and read the guidance provided by NGB and Alaska's AGR staff to understand the ASMB background and board process.

On Sept. 17, 2010, memorandums announcing the 2011 AGR Active Service Management Boards for officers and enlisted personnel were issued to all states and territories from Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau.

The Alaska National Guard then issued a memorandum dated Oct. 17, 2010, to officer and enlisted AGRs, serving as notification that the board will consider them this year through an ASMB.

The AGR personnel identified for consideration include those who have completed 18 or more years of active service as of Dec. 31, 2010.

Once the consideration roster was built, Kostoff eliminated those AGRs exempt from this year's board according to the following criteria set by NGB:

Already have an approved retirement request

Are currently on their initial 3-year AGR tour

Will reach age 60 within 18 months after the date the board is scheduled to convene

Completed less than 12 months of Active Duty Service Obligation incurred due to school completion as of the convene date of the board

Are a nominative Command Sergeant Major serving in the AGR program

Were conditionally promoted to Sergeant Major

Currently serve as a command chief warrant officer

Were considered on a selection board 12 months prior

The Oct. 17, 2010, Alaska National Guard memorandum also served notification to each AGR to initiate a thorough review of their individual records.

A Lifecycle Management Board Checklist was enclosed with the notification, providing guidance for reviewing and updating records.



Courtesy graphic

AGRs were instructed to compile the items on the checklist and email those documents to Master Sgt. Jody Heffele, AGR Section noncommissioned officer-in-charge, at [jody.heffele@us.army.mil](mailto:jody.heffele@us.army.mil).

All documents were required to be submitted by the last day of February. Heffele will now assemble the packets and each person will meet with him to verify their contents.

Kostoff advises Soldiers to pay close attention to the standards. They are described in detail in the NGB Memorandum of Instruction.

"The board is looking at an overall picture of each person's career," Kostoff said. "It's based on Gen. McKinley's Memorandum of Instruction that outlines very specific criteria he wants the board to look at; fitness, ability to deploy, assignments, diversity — all of the things that he envisions as a well-rounded AGR person."

Kostoff emphasized, each Soldier is responsible for building his or her individual packet, and should contact their unit administrative representative if they have questions or come across any problems.

"The Alaska Army National Guard needs to restructure personnel to meet our reduction in force requirements set by NGB," said Brig. Gen. Randy Banez, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard. "It is critical that we methodically approach this requirement and implement specific measures to ensure the constitution of a fair and non-biased process."

An officer and an enlisted board are scheduled to convene separately, but simultaneously, from April 5–7.

In an effort to reduce even a perception of favoritism, Maj. Gen. Thomas Katkus, adjutant general, Alaska National Guard requested voluntary National Guard leaders from across the country serve as board members.

Katkus stated emphatically that "every affected member deserves the opportunity to have their future with the Alaska National Guard, considered through a fair and impartial review of their record with no external influence, bias, or perception."

The board members will meet in an undisclosed location and are prohibited

from revealing that they are even serving on the board.

In an effort to prevent them from having any preconceived intent while evaluating, they will not be informed of the reductions needed for the Alaska Army National Guard force structure.

An Order of Merit List will be built off of the board scores, and any reductions that need to be made will be taken from the bottom of the list.

Katkus is the final approving authority on only the enlisted board results.

Once completed, the state has 15 days to send the results to NGB with his signature confirming the decisions. NGB has 15 days to approve or disapprove the results based on whether the board was conducted according to regulations.

For officers, the state has 15 days to send those results to NGB. NGB has 15 days to review, then submits to the chief, National Guard Bureau.

CNGB has 4–6 weeks to provide an approval or disapproval response to the Alaska National Guard.

Once the Alaska National Guard receives this final approval, AGRs must be notified of the results within seven days.

First, a senior leader and HRO representative will personally notify anyone who is on the release roster.

After that, those AGRs who will be retained are sent an email and hard copy notification.

Based on that timeline, Alaska National Guard enlisted AGRs are scheduled to be notified of results mid-May, and officers will likely be notified in mid to late June.

"Anyone who is not being retained will then have 30 days after receiving the results to decide what they want to do," Kostoff said. "They can choose to be a traditional M-day Soldier, apply for technician jobs, retire, or apply for AGR jobs in other states."

Kostoff also explained that the Soldier will have 9-12 months before any action happens, allowing time to use up any leave and search for a job if needed.

She noted that preparing for this board doesn't happen overnight; AGRs should continuously strive for excellence and manage their career.

"There are very strict regulations we have to follow to wear the uniform full time. Manage your height and weight, manage your PT, manage your military and civilian education, and to some extent manage your assignments," said Kostoff. "Position yourself so that when a board like this comes up and you just happen to be one of those who may be reduced, you are the best and brightest of that group of people."



# Briefs and Announcements

## Disposition of effects

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Sgt. Michael M. McCloskey, 84th Engineer Support Company (Airborne), 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), may contact 1st Lt. Megan Hedman, at the 84th ESC, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, 99505, or by phone at 384-1269.

## Spice briefings

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson invites family members to Spice, synthetic marijuana, briefings.

There will be a briefing March 28, from 6–8 p.m., in the JBER-Richardson Theater and March 29, from 10 a.m. to noon in the JBER-Elmendorf Theater.

## Furnishings management

The Furnishings Management Office offers 90-day loaner furniture for Airmen arriving at or leaving JBER-Elmendorf.

The FMO also has appliances for Airmen residing off base, for long term use. Delivery and pick-up is provided for 90-day loaner furniture and appliances. The FMO also has long term furniture for franks E-1 through E-5.

These items are available on a first-come first-serve basis. The service member is responsible for transporting these furnishings. Airmen should take a copy of PCS orders to the Government Housing Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Dr. to schedule furniture delivery. Call 552-2740 for any questions regarding the FMO program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Soldiers can call 384-0092 for the JBER-Richardson FMO.

## Daylight saving time

Daylight saving time goes into effect, Sunday, at 2 a.m. People should set clocks forward one hour accordingly.

## ASE Certification

Automotive Service Excellence certification exams are available through the Army Education Testing Office for May testing. The Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support program will fund up to three regular tests.

DANTES does not fund L1, L2, or recertification tests. Examinees must pay the \$36-registration fee and any additional regular test and recertification test fees when registering.

Register no later than March 17 at the Army Education Office.

## Thrift Shops

The Thrift Shop, Building 724, Quartermaster Road, Door 8, is open Tuesday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Wednesday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and Thursday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. The Thrift Shop is also open the first and third Saturday of each month, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Bargain Shop, 8515 Saville Ave., is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

## AER scholarships

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program helps Army families with undergraduate college expenses for their dependent children.

The 2011-2012 scholarship application and requirement information are available at [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

The deadline for submissions is April 1. For more information, call 384-7478.

## State fair scholarships

The Alaska State Fair is currently accepting applications for its 2011 scholarship program, which is open to all Alaska high school seniors. Three \$1,000 cash scholarships will be awarded. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m., April 22.

Scholarship recipients will be announced by May 2.

For more information, call 746-7164 or send e-mail to [marketing@alaskastatefair.org](mailto:marketing@alaskastatefair.org), or visit [alaskastatefair.org](http://alaskastatefair.org).

## Volunteers needed

Air Force Volunteers are needed for Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command missions to Vietnam and Laos. Volunteers can have any Air Force Specialty Code.

The mission to Vietnam takes place May 10 to June 11. There will be two missions to Laos; April 18 to June 5 and June 13 to July 31.

All volunteers must be approved by their commander via signed memorandum to proceed

on a 45 day TDY; have a fitness score of 75 or greater; possess a tourist or official passport that does not expire within six months of mission completion and be in the grade of E-5 through E-8.

Senior airmen can apply but commanders must attest to the selected Airman’s professionalism. This mission is unit funded.

For more information call DSN 449-9721 or visit [https://13af.ops.hickam.af.mil/sites/index.cfm?event=index&page\\_id=581&tab\\_id=782](https://13af.ops.hickam.af.mil/sites/index.cfm?event=index&page_id=581&tab_id=782).

## Voting poster contest

Entries are now being accepted for the Federal Voting Assistance Program poster and slogan contest.

The contest is open to U.S. citizens worldwide, via *challenge.gov*.

Contests should use ideas from [fvap.gov](http://fvap.gov) to inspire members of the military, their families and U.S. citizens residing overseas to participate in elections while away from home.

More information can be found at [fvap.gov](http://fvap.gov) or <http://challenge.gov/dod/115-absentee-voting-slogan-contest>. Winners will receive a trip to Washington D.C., to participate in special events and tours.

## Housing referral

Visit the Automated Housing Referral Network at [www.AHRN.com](http://www.AHRN.com) (sponsored by the Department of Defense) to find housing at a current or upcoming Permanent Change of Station location. *AHRN.com* listings include available community rentals, military housing, shared rentals, temporary lodging and military for sale by owner listings.

Listings include property descriptions, pictures, maps, links to local schools, and contact information.

If you would like to rent your home, post a “For Sale by Owner” listing, or are looking for another service member as a roommate in your current home, you may place an add free of charge on the site.

## EOSO Tea Time

Members of the Elmendorf Officers’ Spouses’ Organization are invited to the “Tea Time” Social on March 17, from 11:30 a.m.–1:30

p.m. at the Base Chapel One Annex for \$15.

Show off your own china set by bringing a cup, saucer and salad plate. Everyone is encouraged to dress in Kentucky Derby attire. Please RSVP by Monday to [Reservations@ElmendorfOSO.com](mailto:Reservations@ElmendorfOSO.com). For more information visit our [www.ElmendorfOSO.com](http://www.ElmendorfOSO.com).

## Tax offices

The U.S. Army Alaska Tax Center is open to provide tax preparation and advice to service members, retirees, family members, and eligible members of the Reserve component through April 18.

The center is in Room 306, Building 600. Hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday, 1–8 p.m.

For more information, call 384-1040.

The 673d Air Base Wing Tax Office is next to Customer Service on the first floor of Building 8517, in the People Center, and remain open through April 18.

Hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Tax preparation is free of charge, but limited to valid military ID card holders.

Customers should bring Social Security cards or a statement from the Social Security Administration bearing their Social Security Number to the Tax Center.

## Defense logistics

The Defense Logistics Agency (formerly Document Automation Production Services) provides a variety of document services including programs, in-flight guides and training manuals.

The DLA office is located in Building 984 on Warehouse Street.

For questions or document services call 384-2901.

## Airman’s Attic

The Airman’s Attic is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. The attic is looking for volunteers to help with the shop’s mission of providing a valuable benefit to the community. Even if volunteers can only donate one hour, they are welcome; it will make a difference. Call 580-3120 for more information.

# Stop Loss special pay claim deadline extended

U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been extended to March 18, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they’ve earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama yesterday, providing funding for federal government operations through March 18.

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009.

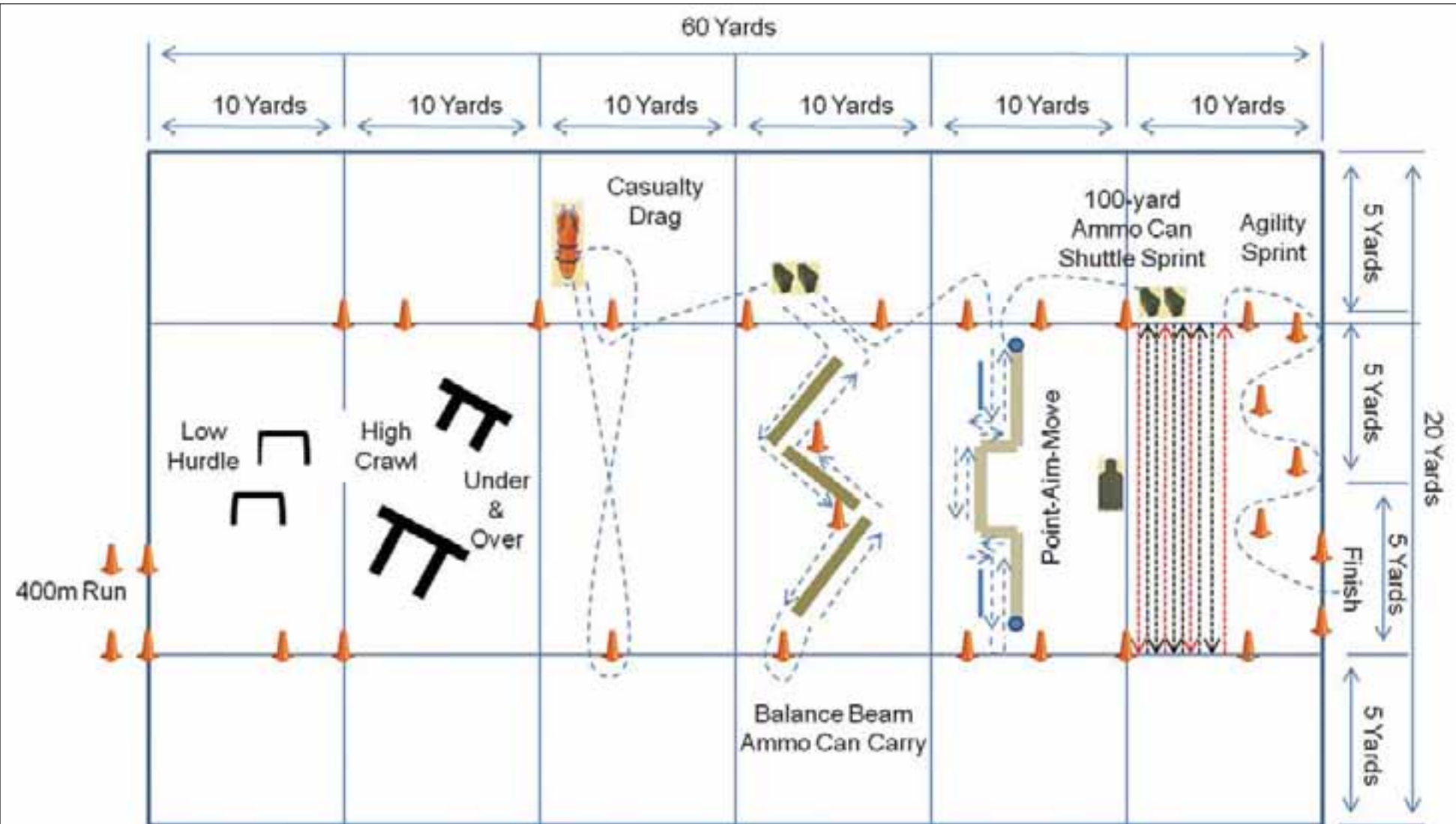
Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit.

Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts over the past 14 months.

Outreach efforts will continue through March 18.

For more information, visit [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss).



# TRADOC revises Army Physical Fitness Test

By Kelly Schloesser  
TRADOC PAO

FORT MONROE, Va. — Soldiers will be better prepared if they train how they would fight.

This innovative physical readiness training philosophy, implemented by the U.S. Army Train-

ing and Doctrine Command, has driven the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School to revise not only how the Army conducts physical training, but also how it will evaluate a Soldier's physical capability.

Since 1980, the U.S. Army has assessed physical aptitude through the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Soldiers are currently required to complete three events: two-minutes of push-ups, two-minutes of sit-ups, and a two-mile run.

“Today’s PT test does not adequately measure components of strength, endurance, or mobility,” said Army Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, TRADOC’s deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training, who holds a master’s degree in exercise physiology.

"The events have a low correlation to the performance of warrior tasks and battle drills and are not strong predictors of successful physical performance on the battlefield or in full spectrum operations," Hertling said.

As TRADOC's lead for the test review, Hertling collaborated with a 16-member team headed by Frank Palkoska, director of the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School, resulting in a recommendation to the Army for not just one, but two revised PT tests.

"The goal is to align the training and the tests with tasks that Soldiers have to perform on the battlefield so that the commander has a better tool to measure preparedness and can guide training for the unit," Palkoska said.

The proposed tests, the Army Physical Readiness Test, or APRT, and the Army Combat Readiness Test, align with Army Physical Readiness Training outlined in Training Circular 3-22.20.

The APRT, designed to replace the current APFT, expands from

three to five events, eliminates sit-ups, increases the pace of push-ups, and replaces the long-distance run with shorter-faster runs.

The five events include: a 60-yard shuttle run, one-minute rower, standing long-jump, one-minute push-up, and a 1.5 mile run. These events will more accurately test a Soldier's anaerobic and aerobic endurance while reducing the risk of injuries. The current test also only provides a "snapshot" assessment of upper and lower-body muscular endurance and fails to identify anaerobic capacity, Hertling said.

In order to better assess anaerobic capacity that drive high-intensity bursts of energy, the run will be changed to 1.5 miles.

"Soldiers will tend to run faster, testing the anaerobic energy system in their body," said Hertling. The shorter-faster run, requiring a significant burst of energy, will better prepare Soldiers for the intensity of today's battlefield, he said.

To better assess muscular endurance, the one-minute rower and push-up events will not allow Soldiers to pause and rest, which will demonstrate immediate muscle fatigue and failure.

TRADOC is also recommending Soldiers take the ACRT, which incorporates warrior tasks and provides a more accurate assessment of the physical readiness training program and the Soldier's individual capability.

The ACRT will be executed in the Army Combat Uniform, Ad-

vanced Combat Helmet, and with a weapon, and includes a 400-meter run, hurdles, a high crawl, casualty drag, sprints, and several other movement drills.

The ACRT is designed to not only correlate with readiness training, but also to provide a more accurate picture of a Soldier's ability to perform Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. The test incorporates several exercises and drills from the physical readiness training circular and provides a testing environment similar to that on the battlefield.

“Previously, we primarily trained for the assessment,” said Palkoska. Now our training will drive the test, not the other way around, he said.

The Army will begin pilot testing at approximately eight locations with multiple units in order to set standards. The pilot currently plans to align age categories for the test scores with the American College of Sports Medicine and Cooper Institute, broadening age categories to under 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and above, for both genders.

Following the establishment of standards and a thorough review, likely lasting through the summer, the tests can then be approved for Army-wide execution. Implementing the new tests is the final step in the Soldier Athlete initiative to better prepare Soldiers for strenuous training and the challenges of full-spectrum operations.



# Deployed 673d Security Forces team provides safety

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Longoria  
Air Force News Service

ALI AIR BASE, Iraq — Defenders deployed from the 673rd Security Force Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, are no strangers to extreme temperatures. However, the frigid climate and frozen tundra they know are completely opposite to the weather they have experienced during more than 120 outside-the-wire missions in the Iraqi desert.

Assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Flight, the 15 arctic warriors provide armed security for other units while they conduct weekly force protection operations near Ali Air Base.

“We safeguard person-

nel when they go outside the base boundaries,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Eric Malone, 407th ESFF.

“We are the eyes, ears and firepower for them when they are out working in the villages,” Malone said. “Our job is to get them there safely and bring them back safely as well.”

The team has done this five times a week for the past five months.

“It’s overwhelming but very exciting,” said Airman 1st Class Kevin Freeman, 407th ESFF. “Without us, lives would be lost, so it is important that we make sure nothing happens.”

The team’s mission is extremely critical, Freeman said.

Murals listing the names of service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice are painted around

the base, and serve as a daily reminder of the danger present.

“In the past, our forces have unfortunately lost lives here,” Malone said. “That’s why it is so important that we provide a safe environment for them to conduct their business.”

With the ability to safely gather important information, commanders are provided with reports that allow them to increase the protection of coalition forces on the base.

“We don’t get to see the direct results of the missions but the teams we protect always let us know it couldn’t happen without our help,” said Airman 1st Class Stephen M. Austin, 407th ESFF. “It feels good knowing that we play a role in denying the threat outside the gate.”

Each mission is different, Malone said.

“It’s a dynamic mission,” Malone said. “Every time we go out, it’s different, but time and time again, the team has stepped up to the challenge and done a really great job.”

Constantly running missions does not leave the team with time to do much else.

However, they still take the time to practice and hone their skills.

“We train once a week to make sure everyone is up to speed on all of the proper procedures,” Austin said.



**Tech. Sgt. Landon Branch, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces flight, yells and points at opposition forces to turn around and go the other way during a training exercise with the Tactical Security Element, Feb. 25 at Ali Air Base, Iraq.**



**Tech Sgt. Jacob Fontenot, slowly moves behind cover during a training exercise with the Tactical Security Element, Feb. 25, at Ali Air Base, Iraq. (Photo by Senior Airman Andrew Lee)**

“We prepare for things that don’t normally happen in hopes that they never do.”

To stay proficient and prepared for the unexpected, the team runs through situations that may arise on actual missions, keeping training constant, Malone said.

“We go through mock

villages and run through different scenarios to keep us sharp,” Malone said. “Working with these other units here has been outstanding.”

The team’s success comes as no surprise. They were individually selected for this deployment based on various attributes by their

squadron leadership.

“Knowing how dangerous this mission can be, the team was carefully handpicked because of their mentally and physical readiness,” Malone said. “The mission and the team have been great. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”





# ARCTIC WARRIOR COMMUNITY

www.jber.af.mil/news



Little Soldier gets a big wish at Fort Polk, Page B-2

Volume 2, No. 10

March 11, 2011

## Breaking trails, making history

### Military support for Iditarod goes all the way back

By John Pennell  
JBER PAO

Denizens of most northern cities would throw hissy fits if they knew snow was being trucked in and dumped on their city streets this close to spring's escape from winter's woes.

But in Anchorage, on the first Saturday in March, nobody bats an eye.

Not only was the snow brought in by the truckload, volunteers from around the world flocked downtown Saturday to spread and smooth the snow along 4th Avenue and Cordova Street to make a slick path for the dog teams and mushers taking part in the ceremonial start of the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Alaska's military has close ties to the historic retracing of the 1925 effort to get much-needed diphtheria serum to Nome.

A group of Soldiers from Fort Richardson drove snowmachines to break trail for the first "Last Great Race" in 1973, and for years the first leg of the race ran from Anchorage to Eagle River – crossing Fort Richardson property including the Moose Run Golf Course.

Retired musher Rod Perry took part in that first race in 1973.

The historic Iditarod Trail was once a major thoroughfare into interior Alaska during the heyday of gold mining, Perry said, but it had fallen into disuse over the previous 50 years.

In fact, nobody was really sure exactly where it was anymore. The wooden tripods that marked the trail had long since rotted and fallen into the tundra.

In an article written about the history of the Iditarod for its 25th anniversary, Fairbanks journalist Brian Patrick O'Donoghue wrote about how the Army became involved.

Army Maj. Gen. Charles M. Gettys, Fort Richardson's commander at the time, was planning a 1972 mission to test the application of snowmachines for military use, O'Donoghue wrote.

Redington met with the general, who was a sled-dog racing fan. Getty agreed to delay the expedition a few weeks and have his Soldiers tie ribbons remarking the Iditarod Trail from Knik to Nome.

"About 10 days before the race, a Chinook helicop-



Musher Ed Sielstra's team makes the turn from 4th Avenue onto Cordova Street at the ceremonial start of the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Saturday. Sixty-two teams, plus this year's honorary musher Tom Busch left the start point on 4th Avenue to kick off the 1,150-mile race to Nome. (Photo by John Pennell/JBER PAO)

ter landed on Knik Lake and disgorged 10 new snowmachines and 13 Soldiers," Perry said. "The general was there and he told the guy in charge, 'Make it to Nome or don't come back.'"

"We knew with the might of the U.S. Army behind the effort, there was no failure," Perry said. "They'd make it."

What the mushers might have expected was the sort of trail a group of Soldiers on snowmachines might create for them to follow.

"That trail was rough!" Perry exclaimed. "Those guys didn't know anything about putting in a dog team trail – at all! They took us through some of the craziest situations."

"You can't side-hill with a sled any more than you can side-hill with skis unless you rock them up and use the uphill edge to carve – and you can't rock a dogsled up on its side," Perry explained. "So it just slides sideways down a slope like two flat skis."

"These guys took us down a steep hill, on a side hill, and right where we'd be going the fastest, right in between two enormous cottonwood trees with just enough room to get the sled through," he remembered. "I'm amazed there wasn't just

a pile of dog-sled kindling there. I was carrying my lead dog in the basket at the time and I had one hand on his head to keep him in the middle of the load so he didn't get his head torn off by one of those cottonwoods."

But Perry said those in on the planning could laugh off the trail conditions and be glad there was a trail at all.

"On the one hand we were just shaking our heads and rolling our eyes at these goofy Army guys, but those of us in the know were just so thankful that they did it," he said. "We knew they didn't know anything about making a trail; it wasn't like they were professionals at laying out a dog team trail."

"They were just trying to make sure they got through to Nome ... they couldn't take time to cherry up the trail and look for alternate routes."

Perry finished in 17th place – good enough for a \$700 share of the prize money.

He said he still thinks about those Soldiers who paved the way for that first race.

"If it hadn't been for the Army," he said, his voice trailing off. "I don't think there would have been a second race."

### USARAK Soldiers get into Fur Rondy

3rd MEB PAO

Soldiers from the 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper), 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, recently back from Afghanistan, got an Alaskan welcome during the city's three-day Fur Rendezvous festival.

The troops took part in the Running of the Reindeer, an annual highlight of the Fur Rondy.

The event also served as the backdrop for 3rd MEB Commander Col. Barry K. Williams to enlist 20 new Soldiers into the Army and re-enlist 10 U.S. Army Alaska Soldiers.

The annual winter festival started here in 1935 to coincide with the time the miners and trappers came to town with their winter's yield.

Called the "largest winter festival in North America," it now attracts visitors from throughout the world.

**Above right: Anchorage citizens welcome home Soldiers of the 23rd Engineer Company (Airborne) from their yearlong deployment in Afghanistan.**

**Right: Participants brave the cold during the Running of the Reindeer event March 5.**

**Far right: Col. Barry K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, enlists 20 new Soldiers and reenlists 10 Soldiers March 5 during the Fur Rendezvous festival in downtown Anchorage.**

(Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson, 3rd MEB PAO)





# Army's littlest Soldier gets his biggest wish at Fort Polk

By Rachel Reischling  
Fort Polk Guardian

FORT POLK, La. — A 9-year-old boy arrived Feb. 26, with his father to the Chateau du Bon Reve – which translates, from French, to the Castle of Good Dreams – a reception hall built in Sulfer, La., to resemble a medieval castle.

The boy, Brennan Daigle, often went fishing at the hall with his father. There is a pond surrounding the castle stocked with fish, and this fishing trip was a precursor to his 10th birthday party - but this day would be different. Brennan caught no fish; instead, awaiting him were more than 40 Fort Polk Soldiers in full formation and standing at attention.

No company commander called them to attention, nor was the National Anthem being played.

The 40 members of Fort Polk's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and members of the Louisiana National Guard stood at attention for Brennan Daigle.

Brennan was diagnosed in October 2009 with embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer in which muscular tumors attach themselves to bone. The healthy young boy of 8, spindly and growing, began to lose weight and grow pale as the chemotherapy treatments he underwent took their toll.

By October 2010, the tumor had grown in size and mutated. On Feb. 10, Brennan's doctor gave his mother and Brennan the worst news of their lives: There was nothing more they could do for him.

"The doctor told him they'd done everything they could and that he probably had two weeks left to live. So she sent him home to be with us," his mother said.

There would be no more needles.

Brennan and his mother were left to absorb the news. Brennan's mother had to come to terms suddenly with the fact that she would lose her only son and there was nothing in her power that could save him. The power to save, or accept, would have to come from beyond: From the family's faith.

"I know that with faith in God I'll be OK," he said. "I think God will lead me."

Still, Brennan does not want to die. After hearing the news that he was being sent home to spend his last days with his parents and sister, he said so to his mother, "I won't see you every day," Brennan said to his mother.

"Oh, Brennan," she answered, "you'll be able to walk hand in hand with your grandma who's already in heaven, and you'll see us again."

Even with his intense faith, Brennan is a typical 10-year-old. He enjoys fishing, hav-

ing sleepovers with his best friend, Kaleb, and playing video games, many of which glorify combat and victory.

Brennan also loves all things Army.

As his mother planned a cancer society fund-raiser event, Brennan suggested a G.I. Joe theme. The image of a strong and healthy man battling his enemies connected with Brennan, who was fighting his own battle. Days later, Brennan and his family learned that his tumor was still growing.

To keep all of his family and friends apprised of his condition, his mother created a Facebook page, called, aptly, "Brennan's Brigade," with pictures and hundreds of comments from people around the world - including Soldiers who have written comments of encouragement.

"Many of these Soldiers write things like, 'we're over here fighting for our country while you're at home fighting for your life,'" said Daigle.

"We even got a picture of Soldiers surrounding a Humvee in Afghanistan, holding an American flag, who gave him the message 'We're flying this flag in honor of you. We're here to back you. Stay Army strong.'"

From the "Brennan's Brigade" page, Brennan began developing bonds with some of the Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. He met one of the Soldiers who came home from overseas. That Soldier gave Brennan the X Box game "Call of Duty: Black Ops." The Soldier, Adam Langley, often plays the game with Brennan online.

"It's Brennan's favorite game," his mother said.

He could not have guessed that for his 10th birthday, like an image from the game he loves, he would be surrounded by a formation of Soldiers or that he would ride in a camouflaged Humvee.

Instead, that Saturday, as Brennan dreamed of reeling in a fish or three, he stepped out of his father's truck to the sight of the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Soldiers, all standing at attention in front of a National Guard Humvee. Brennan stood still, wide-eyed, uncomprehending. Then everyone - about 400 people - shouted "Happy Birthday, Brennan!" in unison and the entire crowd broke out in applause.

"When he realized it was a surprise, and for him, he couldn't say anything. All he could do was giggle. He was speechless," said his mother.

A simple party had been planned for Brennan, who had asked for an Army-themed birthday celebration.

"He was under the impression that there would be a little birthday party this coming weekend," said his mother. "He had no idea about the castle, and we (her husband and daughter) had no idea that the Army would



After recovering from the initial shock of learning his surprise party included a formation of Soldiers, Brennan Daigle, 9, is inducted into the Army as an Honorary Soldier by Capt. Gabriel Araujo. (Courtesy photo)

send Soldiers to fulfill Brennan's wish."

That wish was facilitated by Becky Prejean, executive director of "Dreams Come True of Louisiana." Prejean heard through word of mouth about Brennan and contacted his mother.

"Kristy said he had two days to two weeks to live and asked if we did parties. He wanted an Army-themed party, so I contacted Katey Husband, Fort Polk community member and mother of a 'Dreams Come True' child, who contacted Tresa Lawson, Fort Polk's Community Relations Officer."

Lawson asked for five to six Soldier volunteers. Forty answered the call.

"Words can never express what I felt seeing all those Soldiers there, knowing some of them had just come back from Iraq and still took time out for just one little boy," said Kristy Daigle. "Just to know that they care enough to give their all, to give their love and support to a little boy is phenomenal. It says so much about our men and women who serve our country in the armed forces."

As Brennan recovered from his initial surprise, Soldiers invited him to examine the Humvee. He climbed in the driver's seat and took the wheel, smiling widely. Then, Soldiers took Brennan and his best friend Kaleb for a ride in the Humvee. Afterward, Brennan and Kaleb stood out from the hatch at the top of the vehicle, posing as hundreds of cameras flashed.

After the Humvee ride, Brennan walked to the front of the formation and each Soldier shook his hand. He was inducted as an

honorary member of the Army, given a coin symbolizing merit and achievement of excellence and given passels of presents ranging from an Army hat to his own personalized dog tags and a rucksack.

Brennan stood still, accepting the gifts quietly but with a smile.

"I'm a little shy," he said later.

One of the dog tags presented to Brennan was inscribed with the Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"Brennan, you exemplify what personal courage means," said Pfc. Kamesha Starkey, 1st MEB. Many of the Soldiers, even seasoned ones who have seen battle, were at a loss for words as they observed Brennan's quiet grace.

"This event is a profound one. A lot of us just wanted to be there for him, show him we support him totally," said Sgt. Joe M. Battle, 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade public affairs. "But I can't say it wasn't hard emotionally."

Pfc. Kyle Frederick added, "It was good to be able to give back. It opened my eyes to a lot of things: How I take my kids for granted, how lucky we are, how we complain on a day-to-day basis and we really have it good compared to others."

The next day, on the way to school - Brennan still attends third grade every day - he asked his mother "Am I really in the Army?"

"You most certainly are," she said. "They don't just swear in anyone!"

"That's awesome," he said.

## 673d Force Support Squadron ♦ JBER-Richardson Events

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Prizes Awarded To Best Male  
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PARTY!**

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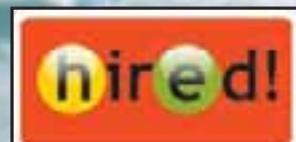
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# Community happenings

## FRIDAY Right Arm Night

Officers and leaders have the opportunity to show their appreciation for their “right arm,” from 3 until 5 p.m. at the Arctic Chill.

## To Build a Fire

Join resident volunteer Jack Noll, noon–3 p.m. at the Eagle River Nature Center, for a walk around Albert Loop where children will build a fire along the river.

The event is limited to the first 12 children, ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult.

For more information, visit [www.emc.org](http://www.emc.org).

## FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Chicago City Limits

Chicago City Limits, an improv comedy group performing for nearly 30 years, headlines at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Friday at 7:30 p.m. and March 12 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 272-1471, or visit <http://alaskapac.centertix.net>.

## FRIDAY AND MARCH 19 Snowmachine trip

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Outdoor Recreation Center hosts two Spencer Glacier snowmachine trips, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., both days.

## SATURDAY Marsalis and Blanchard

Grammy award-winning saxophonist, Branford Marsalis and jazz trumpeter Terence Blanchard headline, 8 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information, call 272-1471, or visit <http://alaskapac.centertix.net>.

## SUNDAY – MARCH 27 Camino Real

Cyrano’s Off Center Playhouse presents Tennessee Williams’ rarely performed play, 7 p.m. Thursday–Friday, and 3 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, visit [www.cyranos.org](http://www.cyranos.org).

## MONDAY –SATURDAY Basketball tournament

The Sullivan Arena hosts the Alaska Schools Activities Association boys and girls state basketball tournament.

For more information and game times, call 563-3723, or visit <http://asaa.org>.

## WEDNESDAY Songwriters of Alaska

Guest artists Amy Lou Hettinger, Melanie Trost, Robin Hopper and Ruby come together to share their experiences in song writing, 5–7 p.m., at the University of Alaska Anchorage Bookstore.

For more information, call 786-4782.

## MARCH 19 Model Railroad Day

The Military Society of Model

Railroad Engineers presents Model Train Day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., in basement Room 35 of Matanuska Hall, 7153 Fighter Drive.

The club meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays with work sessions at 1 p.m. Saturdays in Matanuska Hall. Anyone interested in model railroading is invited to attend.

For more information, call 552-5234 or 952-4353, visit [www.trainweb.org/msmrre](http://www.trainweb.org/msmrre), or e-mail [bjorgan@alaska.net](mailto:bjorgan@alaska.net).

## St. Patrick’s Day party

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a St. Patrick’s Day Party, 8 p.m., at the Arctic Chill.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, page B-2, for more details.

## Wayans Brothers

Shawn and Marlon Wayans headline, 8 p.m., at the Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/fPP9MI>.

## MARCH 26 Sprint triathlon

Swim 18 laps, cycle 12 miles and run three miles, starting at 9 a.m., at Buckner Physical Fitness Center.

## MARCH 27 Photography workshop

Professional photographer Roy Corral presents a workshop designed for beginning digital photography enthusiasts interested in sharpening their skills, noon–3 p.m. at the Eagle River Nature Center.

The workshop is limited to the first 20 who sign up.

Call 694-2108 to register.

## ONGOING Volunteer coaching

Due to the large number of registrations, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Youth Sports Program/Anchorage Military Community Little League still needs 45 volunteer coaches for the upcoming youth baseball and softball season.

The regular season begins April 15 and concludes June 30.

For more information, call 552-2266 or 384-1508.

## Ice Age titans

The Anchorage Museum presents Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age.

Developed by the Field Museum of Chicago, this exhibit includes life-size creatures, skeletons, skulls and tusks; and includes ancient art contemporary to the extinct giants.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit [www.anchagemuseum.org](http://www.anchagemuseum.org).

## Cabaret

The Wild Berry Theater hosts Cabaret, one of Broadway’s and Hollywood’s most famous musicals, Fridays and Saturdays at 8



“Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age” includes several life-size re-creations of other ice age animals. This exhibition photograph features both the short-faced bear and the saber-tooth cat in the background. (Courtesy photo from The Chicago Field Museum)

p.m., through April 9.

For more information, call 562-8858, or visit [www.alaskawildberryproducts.com](http://www.alaskawildberryproducts.com).

## Ice skating

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson recently opened a new outdoor ice skating rink for winter fun and fitness located adjacent to the Kashim Club.

The regulation ice hockey rink is lit and is professionally resurfaced twice weekly.

Outdoor recreation rents a variety of ice skates.

For more information, call 552-2023.

## Hillberg happenings

Hillberg Ski Area is open for spring break.

Dormitory and barracks residents ski for free Friday.

Dyea Ski Area now honors Hillberg season passes.

## Free shotgun rentals

The Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Skeet and Trap Range is offering free shotgun rentals during March for new shooters.

See the 673d Force Support Squadron advertisement, Page B-4, for more details.

## Kashim Karaoke

Karaoke for ages 18 and older is offered in the Kashim Lounge, 9 p.m. until 2:30 a.m.

## Night of Discovery

Discovery is a religious education program of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Chapel community and meets on Wednesdays from 5:45 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. through May 4.

Meals are provided at 5:45 p.m. with classes beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bible-based classes for chil-

dren K–6 are provided with a nursery ministry for pre-school youth.

At the same time as Discovery, the Soldiers’ Chapel hosts Club Beyond, an ecumenical youth ministry open to all junior and high school youth.

For more information, call 552-6480 or 552-0183.

## Wired Cafe

The Wired Cafe is located at 7076 Fighter Dr., between Polaris and Yukla dormitories.

The cafe was built to serve Airmen who live in the dormitories with a home-away-from-home atmosphere.

The cafe has wireless Internet and programs throughout the week.

There are also free home-cooked meals Thursdays with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

For information, call 552-4422.

## Parent support program

The New Parent Support Program hosts several activities for families with young children.

For more information, call NPSP at 580-5858.

## Planetarium shows

Through 3-D graphics, surround sound and a dome screen, the Anchorage Museum’s planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the solar system and more.

For more information, call 929-9200, or visit [www.anchagemuseum.org](http://www.anchagemuseum.org).

## Native Art

The Anchorage Museum presents *(Re) Emergence: Contemporary Alaska Native Art and Design*, exhibiting nearly 50 art works created during the past 50 years by prominent Native artists.

For more information,

call 929-9200, or visit [www.anchagemuseum.org](http://www.anchagemuseum.org).

## Chapel services

### Catholic Mass

#### Sunday

9 a.m. – Soldiers’ Chapel  
10:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1  
5 p.m. – Soldiers’ Chapel  
(Confession is available 30 minutes prior to Sunday Evening Mass)

#### Monday through Friday

11:40 a.m. – Soldiers’ Chapel  
**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**  
11:30 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel Center  
**Thursday**  
11:30 a.m. – Hospital Chapel

### Confession

#### Sunday

4:30 p.m. – Soldiers’ Chapel  
**Monday though Friday**  
Before/after 11:40 Mass – Soldiers’ Chapel

### Protestant Sunday

#### Services

**Joint Liturgical Service**  
9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 2  
**Protestant Celebration Service**  
9 a.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1  
**Collective Protestant Service**  
11 a.m. – Soldiers’ Chapel  
**Gospel Service**  
Noon – Elmendorf Chapel 1  
**Contemporary Protestant Service**  
5 p.m. – Elmendorf Chapel 1

# Births

## FEB. 17

A son, Grant Peter Chase, was born 21.5 inches and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces at 8:44 p.m., to Amity Chase and Air Force Capt. Darrell Chase, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

## FEB. 21

A son, Michael Logan Steward, was born 20.5 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces, at 6:38 a.m., to Amanda Leigh Steward and Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Michael Steward, 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

## FEB. 22

A daughter, Selai Allure Montgomery, was born 19.8 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces, at 10:35 a.m., to April Dawn Montgomery and Alaska Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Stanley Jermaine Montgomery of the 176th Maintenance Squadron.

A son, Aidan James Norris, was born 19 inches long, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces, at 6:56 a.m., to Jessica Norris and Senior Airman Jeremy Norris of the 611th Air and Space Operations Center.

A daughter, Aubrey Makayla Prieto, was born 21 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, at 5:58 p.m., to Eva Marie Prieto and Spc. Eric Prieto of the 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska National Guard.

## FEB. 23

A son, Tyler Raymond Brock, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces, at 10:54 a.m., to Spc. Tiffany Lynn Brock of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion, and Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Brock, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

## FEB. 24

A son, Caleb McClure Pickens, was born 22.5 inches long, weighing 9 pounds, at 6:30

p.m., to Melissa Forrester Pickens and Spc. Anthony Lin Pickens of the 545th Military Police Company.

## FEB. 25

A daughter, Ava Eden Brooks, was born 22.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces, at 3:08 a.m., to JaNeice M. Brooks and Army Staff Sgt. Ellis G. Brooks of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne).

A son, Matei Alexander Ray McCartney, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, at 2:01 a.m., to Cecilia McCartney and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Sean Alexander McCartney of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

A son, Izaac Andres Nunez, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, at 9:26 p.m., to Jennifer Marie Alyssa Nunez and Spc. Edgar Rene Nunez of Company B, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Elliott Marie Smith, was born 20.75 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, at 2:31 p.m., to Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessica Diane Smith of the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron and Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Edward Smith of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

A daughter, Danielle Lynn Tiefenbrun, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces, at 1:08 a.m., to Amanda Rae Tiefenbrun and Spc. Brian Matthew Tiefenbrun of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment.

A son, Dayton Dean Wright, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces, at 11:22 p.m., to Christianna Spring Wright and Army Staff Sgt. Michael Duane Wright of the Alaska National Guard.

A son, Amery D.S. Martinez, was born 21 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, at 4:48 a.m., to Kimberly A. Martinez and Tech. Sgt. Louis B. Martinez of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

## FEB. 27

A son, Andrew James Wallin, was born 21 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces, at 9:43 a.m., to Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Mary Wallin, 673d Inpatient Squadron, 673d Medical Group, and Steven Carl Wallin.

A son, Hunter Graham Trudell, was born 20.5 inches long, weighing 8 pounds, at 3:11 a.m., to Air Force Staff Sgt. Rhonda Marie Anderson of the 381st Intelligence Squadron and Army Capt. Trace Alan Trudell of the Alaska National Guard.

A son, Samuel Jacob Franklin Hammond, was born 21 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 9:57 p.m., to Shiloh S. Hammond and Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth James Hammond, Navy Recruiting District.

A daughter, Sanaa’ Maliyan Watkins, was born 19.5 inches and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 5:02 p.m., to Pvt. Raven Christine Watkins of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

## FEB. 28

A son, Jayce Mark Taylor, was born 21.75 inches and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 4:52 p.m., to Spc. Megan Melissa Taylor of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Spc. John Wayne Taylor Jr. of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.

## MAR. 1

A son, Joshua Riley Alvarez was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 10:43 p.m., to Leslie Anne Hufstедler-Alvarez and Maj. Terrence John Alvarez of

the 6th Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Ganessa Marrie Badillo, was born 20 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, two ounces, at 8:23 p.m., to Spc. Yesenia Badillo and Spc. James Paul Badillo, both of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne).

A daughter, Alexis Margaret Caliva, was born 21.75 inches long, weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces at 10:31 a.m., to Rachel Caliva and Tech. Sgt. Brian Caliva of the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

A daughter, Sariena M. Bouasavanh, was born 20.5 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 10:35 p.m., to Mee Bouasavanh and Army Staff Sgt. Chaided Bouasavanh of Company B, 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## MAR. 2

A son, Jase Douglas Grauel, was born 19.25 inches long, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces at 5:40 p.m., to Jessica Leigh Grauel and Spc. Jacob Scott Grauel of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion.

## MAR. 3

A daughter, Jasmine Yael Gangestad-Pass, was born 20.5 inches long, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 1:41 p.m., to Jennifer Lynn Gangestad and Spc. Jason Allen Pass, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne).

A son, Sean Thomas Torres, was born 22.5 inches long, weighing 8 pounds at 5:20 p.m., to Hayley Claire Torres and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesus Fidel Torres III of the 673d Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

A daughter, Keeli Josephine Zimmerman, was born 21 and a quarter inches and 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 5:56 p.m. to Sarah Ashley Zimmerman and Airman 1st Class Luke David Zimmerman of the 773d CES.



# DoD improving access to top-quality education

By Elaine Wilson  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are taking extensive measures — from education reviews to agency partnerships — to ensure service members have access to quality education and learning opportunities in their off-duty hours, a DoD official said.

Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, outlined these efforts for members of a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee yesterday.

Each year, one-third of the nation’s service members enroll in post-secondary education courses leading to associate’s, bachelor’s and advanced degrees, Gordon said.

This past year alone, officials tallied more than 857,000 course enrollments and more than 45,000 service members who earned a degree or certification.

Service members are non-traditional students, attending school part time during off-duty hours, said Gordon, noting that oftentimes “military missions, deployments, transfers and family obligations

impinge on their ability to continue their education.”

This can result in an interruption of studies or breaks of months and even years between courses or in completing degree requirements, he said.

To better accommodate their work schedules and demands, the military is turning to technology to create more opportunities than ever before, Gordon said. Colleges and universities deliver classroom instruction via the Internet and on military installations around the world.

“There are no geographical confines,” he said. “Courses are offered on board ships, submarines and at deployed locations.”

From spring 2009 to 2010, for example, 432 service members in Iraq and Afghanistan graduated from post-secondary schools, Gordon said.

With such a widespread educational offering, officials are working to ensure that tuition assistance dollars, intended for off-duty education, are well spent.

All institutions participating in tuition assistance programs must be accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the Education Department, Gordon said. And

colleges and universities on installations must adhere to additional criteria.

The Defense Department, Gordon said, also contracted with the American Council on Education to conduct the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review, which provided a third-party independent review of the DoD’s on-installation programs.

Officials are pursuing another contract, to be awarded by Oct. 1, that will have an “enhanced quality criteria,” Gordon explained, and include all modes of course delivery as well as all institutions on and off military installations participating in the tuition assistance program.

Officials will track third-party recommendations for this new review, he added, and monitor corrective actions to ensure ongoing improvement.

To further bolster educational services, officials will implement a new policy, effective Jan. 1, 2012, that requires every institution participating in the tuition assistance

program to have a memorandum of understanding with the Defense Department. This MOU includes an agreement that institutions must participate in the new review process, he said.

The Defense Department also is working with the Education Department on a “sharing agreement,” Gordon noted, which will enable officials to receive reports from accrediting agencies, school-

monitoring reviews and requirements for state authorizations of schools.

The department will apply this information within the DoD’s voluntary education programs and

prior to issuing tuition assistance funds, he explained.

To garner feedback, officials have developed an online, automated tracking system to document issues and concerns, Gordon said.

Students, DoD personnel and schools can submit their comments on a Web-based system, which will track submissions and record resolutions, he said.

“The information gleaned will be used to address improper behavior or questionable practices by an institution participating in the TA program,” Gordon said.

The Government Accountability Office recently conducted a detailed examination of the tuition assistance program, Gordon said.

“I’m pleased to say that I believe their report on our management of this large and complex program was favorable,” he said.

The accountability office made five administrative recommendations, Gordon said. “We concurred with all of them and are implementing them now.”



## Resiliency not always easy, but a worthwhile goal

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Keith Muschinske  
JBER Wing Chaplain

There’s been quite an emphasis on “resiliency” recently — from the Army, the Air Force, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Frontline Supervisor Training. Suicide prevention programs. Strong Bonds. How to handle deployments and other family separations better. But what do we mean when we say someone is resilient?

To put it simply, no matter what comes at them, a resilient person bounces back as well as anyone could.

“It is not whether you get knocked down. It’s whether you get up again,” said Vince Lombardi, coach of the first Super-Bowl-winning Green Bay Packers.

So what helps you get back up again after you’ve been knocked down by the many slings and arrows of life? My guess is when you stop to think about it, your answers will fall into one or more of these categories or “quadrants” of a balanced

“It’s not whether you get knocked down. It’s whether you get up again.”

—Vince Lombardi

life: mental, physical, spiritual and social.

The Army, in a 2010 report titled “Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention,” adds a fifth domain, family, resulting in the five domains of “Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.”

This is “a holistic program designed to provide members of the Army community the knowledge and thinking skills to develop behaviors that will enable them to successfully cope with life’s challenges and adversities.” Resilience is “the sum of each individual’s assets and resources in each of these domains.”

Being resilient doesn’t mean you never experience difficulty or distress. For example, emotional pain and continuing sadness are common in many who have suffered major adversity or trauma in their lives. In fact, the road to resilience is likely to involve considerable emotional distress.

Nor is resilience a trait people either have or do not have. Becoming and staying resilient involves behaviors, thoughts and actions that anyone can learn and develop. But just like staying physically resilient requires regular “working out,” you need to “work out” in the other three (or four) categories as well. And since this happens to be a Chaplain’s Corner, you’ve probably already guessed I’m going to address the importance of a work out for your spiritual self.

“Oh, great,” some of you are thinking, “here it comes — the sermon...always a sermon...”

“Oh, GREAT,” others of you are thinking, “Finally comes the sermon!”

This just proves that each of us addresses and strengthens our spiritual self in different ways. On one end of a marvel-

ously diverse spectrum are those who believe in God and strive to walk daily connected with their God. On the other end are those who might not even consider themselves to have a spiritual self, but whom I’d suggest are still spiritual people, even if, for example, the extent of their spirituality is to wonder — at any time in their life — if there’s anything after our physical death.

Last Friday I strengthened my spiritual self by listening to Dr. Ravi Zacharias at the Talkeetna Theater here on JBER. Dr. Zacharias is a well-known Christian speaker but I had never heard him speak, not on radio, TV or in person, until Friday.

Did I agree with everything he said? No. Did I have to agree with everything he said in order to take something positive away, in order to “work out” my spiritual self? Absolutely not.

But without that and regular personal “exercise” of my spiritual self, I wouldn’t be as easily able to make informed decisions about what I do or don’t believe. I wouldn’t have been able to build up my spiritual understanding and resiliency, and the next time I needed to call upon my spiritual “reserves” to get through a difficult time, my spiritual tank wouldn’t be as full.

Here’s another way your spiritual workouts can help you snap back after the challenges of life like a rubber band.

A strong spirituality can help you maintain a sense of purpose in your life, from trying to live in tune with “God’s will,” to being committed to another person — husband or wife or child, the Airman to your left or the Soldier to your right. What do our military heroes through the ages have in common? A higher purpose and service before self.

Just read a few of the stories out there of Medal of Honor and other award winners; the stories of everyday people who excel when times are difficult. Do their stories inspire you? Congratulations, you’ve become more spiritually resilient!

## Experience Elmendorf-Richardson



Hillberg Ski Hotline 552-4276



**Free First Timer  
Ski or Snowboard  
Lesson  
for 1st Term Soldiers/Airmen**  
March 18 • 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Limited to the first 24 people  
Please Make Reservations  
552-5026

Rent Hillberg Ski Lodge for your  
Squadron/Battalion Functions,  
Bir hday Parties, and Special  
Events. Call  
552-4838 to make your reservations  
or for more information go to  
[www.elmendorf-richardson.com](http://www.elmendorf-richardson.com)

*Hillberg Season Passes are now  
honored at Dyea for skiing and  
snowboarding.*



**Swim lesson  
registration now  
through March 15**  
Elmendorf Fitness Center is  
offering lessons Swim lessons  
start on March 15  
at 5:30 p.m. Sign up at the  
front desk.  
Call 552-5353 for details.

**Ready to lace up  
your skates?**

The outdoor ice rink, next to the  
Kashim Club is open!  
Grab some friends to play hockey  
or see who’s the next  
Figure 8 champion! Free skating  
daily on the lighted rink.  
Need Skates?  
You can rent them at  
Elmendorf ORC or Richardson’s  
Dyea Ski Center.  
Give them a call at  
**552-2023/384-2960.**

**Boaters Safety  
Certification**  
required to rent “motorized”  
boats. Course available at  
[www.boatus.org](http://www.boatus.org).  
Select State of Alaska.  
Bring certificate copy to  
JBER-Elmendorf ORC. “Non-  
motorized” watercraft such as  
canoes, catarafts & rowboats  
will require an in-house safety  
course (aprox. 40 minutes)



### Events this Week at The Kashim

- **Texas Hold ‘Em**, Friday nights,  
sign -up 6 p.m., game 7 p.m.
- **Friday Social Hour**,  
5 - 6 p.m. *Free Snacks*
- **Saturday Night Karaoke**  
9 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Show us what you got!  
Must be 18 years old to participate.  
**Kashim • 753-6131 or 552-2393**



# When phishing is scammin’, not salmon, don’t get caught

Better Business Bureau

A new year means a new scam. This time, targeting cell phone users. Like traditional “phishing,” “smishing” schemers often pose as banks or lottery sweepstakes asking customers to contact them immediately about a pressing issue that needs to be discussed. Victims of the bank scam are often asked to call a toll-free number and provide information, such as their debit card or account number and password, to a fake automated system.

Victims have complained they have received text messages claiming their bank account is frozen with a toll free number to call to clear things up. “These hackers are looking for you to respond with vital information that can ultimately lead to identity theft,” said Kim States, BBB President. “In the cases of the lottery ‘smishing’ scam, hackers want you to wire over money before receiving your ‘prize,’ one of the biggest red flags of a ‘smishing’ scam.” Text messages such as “Win cash now!” and “Short on cash? Reply here!” are all red flags that a lottery sweepstakes “smishing” scam is in the midst. Many of these messages come with

embedded links that can ultimately spread viruses to the phone if clicked. The Better Business Bureau advises consumers to do the following if they suspect they have fallen victim to a “smishing” scam. Never reply to the text message. Schemers are preying on victims that text back and ultimately verify that the text has been sent to an active cell phone. If the message has a link in it, never click it. Many schemers use this as way to spread a viral attack on your phone. Report the text immediately. If you believe you have fallen victim to a “smishing” bank scam, call your bank. They’ll be able to tell you for certain if the text is legitimate. Call your cell-phone provider. Your cell phone provider should be able to block the number, as well as any premium text messages. Do your research. If you believe you have fallen victim to a “smishing” lottery sweepstakes scam, contact the BBB directly to confirm the legitimacy of the text message and to file a complaint against the business responsible. Contact the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC works to legally prevent fraudulent business practices in the marketplace. File a complaint with the FTC by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP.



be free document shredding and cell phone recycling to help reduce identity theft. Businesses and individuals are invited to drop off up to three bags or boxes of unwanted sensitive documents to be securely shredded on the spot by Shred Alaska. Cell phones will be recycled courtesy of The Wireless Alliance. The BBB also offers information about current tax preparation scams, risky refund offers, and other risks at <http://alaskaoregonwesternwashington.bbb.org>. The organization also provides links and information about free music and movie downloading, online dating risks, financial aid and scholarship scams, and Internet pop-up ads that can violate users’ privacy and identity security.

## BBB services for Anchorage and the JBER community

The Better Business Bureau will provide a Customer Protection booth at the Great Alaska Sportsman Show at Sullivan Arena March 31 through April 3, with information about the bureau and ways to prevent identity theft. In Wasilla, they will host a Secure Your ID day April 16 at Wells Fargo Cottonwood Creek, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will



## Army recognizes JBER ATV safety program as top-notch

U.S. Army Alaska Commander Brig. Gen. Raymond Palumbo presents USARAK Safety Specialist David Head with the Director of Army Safety Composite Risk Management Award Feb. 28 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Head earned the Department of the Army-level award for developing a strategy to promote All-Terrain-Vehicle safety and a more accurate and efficient accident-reporting process. His efforts resulted in an ATV safety program at USARAK that Army Safety Center officials have recognized as a “best practice.” (Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt/USARAK PAO)





## TRICARE referrals can incur additional expenses if not regularly updated

TRICARE NEWS RELEASE — Beneficiaries enrolled in a military hospital or clinic have a primary care manager who provides all routine care and helps manage his enrollees' overall health.

Beneficiaries who need specialty care beyond the PCM's scope of practice are referred either to an in-house military specialist if available, or to a downtown specialist for care.

Given the PCM's responsibility for managing overall health, if a TRICARE Prime enrollee has been seeing a civilian specialist and not had a referral from his PCM within the last 180 days, one should be obtained.

Effective Jan. 31, if a civilian specialist submits a new referral and the PCM has not referred to them in the last 180 days, the beneficiary may receive a letter stating he must obtain a referral from their PCM in order for the request to be processed.

If a beneficiary sees the civilian specialist without an updated and current PCM referral, the claim will be processed under the Point of Service option of TRICARE coverage — a deductible and cost share option.

Patients are responsible to make sure a referral has been generated and approved to avoid POS fees.

If you receive a letter stating your referral was not certified for lack of a PCM referral, check with your referral management center for more information.

Once a new PCM referral has been approved, you will receive the referral notification letter in the mail in approximately 7 to 10 work-ing days.

You can also register online at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) to receive a Quick Alert, which is an e-mail notification, in about 24 to 48 hours. TriWest will process the referral and select a provider for you if one was not specifically requested, or patients can choose another network provider in that specialty.

Once a beneficiary receives the notification letter or Quick Alert, they may contact the provider to schedule an appointment. Make sure you follow the directions on the referral.

If a specialist recommends additional specialty care, he should request the authorization from TriWest. TriWest will review to ensure appropriate military treatment facility referral history is in place.

Please make sure a referral has been issued prior to seeing any ci-vilian specialist in order to avoid the deductible and higher cost-share with the TRICARE POS option. Check with referral management for more information.

Our beneficiaries' health and well-being are of the utmost impor-tance to us. We want to make sure you are receiving the highest-quality health care to which you are entitled.

This process facilitates the military's medical home model and assists with care coordination by your military PCM. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Referral Management Center at 580-2778, option 5, option 1.



## And the race is on...

Fan favorite musher DeeDee Jonrowe drives her team down Anchorage's Cordova Street at the ceremonial start of the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race March 5. Sixty-two teams, plus this year's honorary musher Tom Busch left the start point on 4th Avenue to kick off the 1,150-mile race to Nome. For more Iditarod photos, check out the Arctic Warrior Flickr photostream at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/arcticwarrior/>. (Photo by John Pennell/JBER PAO)







